A plan scheme for the Cultural Heritage Young Leadership Programme to make school / college students aware of their cultural heritages, has been included in the XI Five Year Plan.

National conservation policy

751. SHRIMATI. JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to formulate national conservation policy; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal to formulate a national conservation policy for historical monuments. However, as per the existing practice, the monuments declared protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 are maintained and conserved by the Archaeological Survey of India depending upon the availability of resources and the needs of intervention.

Stealing of idols of asthadhatu from Jain Temple

752. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around six idols of Asthadhatu were recently stolen from a Jain Temple, Gurgaon;

(b) whether Government have since been able to track down the alleged culprits;

(c) if so, whether all the idols have been recovered and whether any punishment were accorded to them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Police Commissioner of Gurgaon, has informed that an FIR relating to theft of 10 Jaina images from the above temple has been registered on 27.1.2007 in the City Police Station, Gurgaon under IPC 457/380. The Jain Temple at Jaikampur, District Gurgaon in the State of Haryana is not a centrally protected monument.

The State Police has taken measures to apprehend the culprits. All immigration exit points at the Airport and Seaports have been alerted. So far the stolen sculptures have not been recovered nor have the culprits been apprehended.

Fake works in the Indian Art market

753. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Indian Art industry is presently estimated to be Rs. 2,000 crore and is expected to grow in tandem with our economic prowess;

(b) if so, whether Government would evolve such modalities to keep "fakes" of art works as was recently found in the cancelled exhibition of India's famous and well-known painter S.H. Raja; and

(c) whether a National inventory of art works is being thought of to be maintained by Lalit Kala Akademi in collaboration with galleries and Artists?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The private galleries and their activities are not under the control of this Ministry. The offences of keeping "fakes" of art works are punishable under different sections of the Indian Penal Code.

(c) No, Sir.

Renovation of monuments

754. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the survey conducted by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), nearly sixty thousand monuments across the country are at the nature's mercy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the same;

(d) the corrective measures taken by Government for renovating these monuments and amount estimated to be spent thereon; and

(e) the time by which such monuments are proposed to be renovated?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) As per the information available from Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) the figure of 60,000 monuments is an estimate based in available literature. INTACH has a catalogue of about 30,000 monuments, largely unprotected.

(d) and (e) No central legislation currently exists for conservation and protection of unprotected heritage. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) takes care of 3675 monuments and sites that have been declared as of national importance under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. Besides, the ASI has a scheme for financial assistance for preservation of monuments less than 100 years old. Various State Governments also protect monuments under their respective legislations.

Ancient scriptures and literatures

†755.SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Vedas, Upanishadas, Hindi and Urdu Ramayanas, Buddhist, Jaina and Islamic philosophies, memoirs of ancient and modern foreign travellers, and Indian travellers in other countries under National Mission to preserve ancient handwritten scriptures and literatures; and

(b) the number of people benefited from it during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The National Mission for Manuscripts in the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts has conducted survey in 17 States till

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.